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Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Nuclear disarmament

Working paper submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

1. Nuclear disarmament forms one of the fundamental pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In the course of the negotiations leading to the conclusion of the Treaty, an integrated and balanced package of rights and obligations was introduced according to which non-nuclear-weapon States undertake not to acquire nuclear weapons and to place their facilities under the safeguards agreements. In return, the nuclear-weapon States undertake not to transfer and develop nuclear weapons and commit themselves to practical steps towards nuclear disarmament. Moreover, all States parties to the Treaty undertake to cooperate and ensure the implementation of the inalienable rights of the States parties to peaceful use of nuclear energy in a non-selective and non-discriminatory manner. In addition, universality of the Treaty has been assumed as a common international commitment of all States parties.

2. Since 1978, when the final document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly confirmed nuclear disarmament as the highest priority in the disarmament agenda, the international community has had to wait for more than two decades to witness a comparable endorsement of its long-sought goal, as contained in the final document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The 2005 Review Conference was a sad setback in this direction. As reaffirmed in the agreed action plan on nuclear disarmament of the 2010 Review Conference, the practical steps adopted by consensus at the 2000 Review Conference still constitute the basis of our deliberations on nuclear disarmament in the 2015 Review Conference.

3. With the adoption of the practical steps in the 2000 Review Conference, in particular the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament under article VI of the Treaty, hopes for the implementation of the disarmament pillar of the Treaty were renewed. The implementation of the 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the Treaty has become instrumental towards the goal of nuclear disarmament. In its action plan, the 2010 Review Conference emphasized the urgent need for the nuclear-weapon States

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to implement the practical steps to nuclear disarmament agreed to in the final document of the 2000 Review Conference.

4. The 2015 Review Conference shall consider national reports of the nuclear-weapon States, to be furnished in accordance with actions 5 and 20 of the 2010 Review Conference action plan, with respect to their obligations to implement article VI of the Treaty, including measures adopted by them to implement the 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the Treaty and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

5. The continued development and deployment of thousands of nuclear warheads by the nuclear-weapon States still threaten international peace and security. Despite the obligations under article VI of the Treaty and the commitments made by the nuclear-weapon States at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, and their unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenal adopted at the 2000 Review Conference, as well as their commitment made at the 2010 Review Conference to accelerate progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament, developments in the area of nuclear disarmament have not been promising.

6. The non-entry into force of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II) and the abrogation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty are among the serious setbacks to the implementation of the agreements of the 2000 Review Conference. Moreover, the Moscow Treaty and the Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START) do not go beyond merely decommissioning nuclear weapons, and their parties do not have any obligation to destroy their nuclear weapons covered under those treaties. They therefore do not abide by the principle of irreversibility, which was agreed by the nuclear-weapon States at the 2000 Review Conference and reaffirmed in action 2 of the 2010 Review Conference action plan.

7. During the 2000 Review Conference, the nuclear-weapon States committed themselves to the further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the arms reduction and disarmament process. In actions 3 and 5 of the 2010 Review Conference's action plan, the nuclear-weapon States also reaffirmed their commitment to this end. In spite of that commitment, no practical steps by the nuclear-weapon States have been taken to reduce tactical nuclear weapons.

8. Moreover, in the absence of any mechanism to verify the implementation of unilateral, bilateral and multilateral declarations made or agreements reached regarding the fulfilment of nuclear disarmament obligations, and in order to assure the international community of the real reduction of nuclear weapons and their elimination, the 2015 Review Conference should establish a standing committee to ensure the implementation of the commitments made with regard to article VI obligations.

9. It should also be highlighted that any reduction of nuclear weapons, whether strategic or non-strategic, should be conducted in a transparent, irreversible and internationally verifiable manner. Needless to say, such reduction in nuclear

weapons can never be a substitute for the main obligation of the nuclear-weapon States, namely, the total elimination of nuclear weapons. As a first step, a real change is needed regarding the aggressive Nuclear Posture Review of the United States and a removal of the emphasis on the old doctrine of nuclear deterrence.

10. The international community rightly expects that statements on the reduction of nuclear weapons will be materialized and implemented in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner. Despite these pledges, a review of the new developments in the nuclear policy of the United States shows a reverse trend. The continued emphasis of the new Nuclear Posture Review of the United States on maintaining nuclear weapons and the obsolete deterrence policy, the plan to spend an estimated $700 billion on the modernization of American nuclear arsenals, the construction of a new facility for the production of new nuclear weapons, the lack of movement towards the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the raising of new excuses for keeping nuclear weapons in the new Nuclear Posture Review are clear indications of the continued policy of this State to evade its nuclear disarmament obligation.

11. The new Nuclear Posture Review of the United States and the Trident plan of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which provide for the development and modernization of nuclear weapons, the possible use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and the targeting of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, are in contravention of the assurances given by the nuclear-weapon States at the time of the conclusion of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its indefinite extension. More worrisome are announcements by France. It has recently announced the addition of a nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarine to its nuclear arsenals. The President of that country was quoted as saying, "French nuclear forces are a key element in Europe's security". It appears that this country, in defiance of its international obligations, is seeking new roles for its nuclear forces in order to justify their continued retention. In so doing, it even resorts to irresponsible methods, such as the manipulation of intelligence and frightening people to promote programmes that their people would otherwise not support. It is regrettable that, despite the high expectations of the international community regarding the realization of the pledges of the United States on nuclear disarmament and a world free of nuclear weapons, a new extraordinary budget of tens of billions of dollars has been allocated to modernize American nuclear arsenals. The bill was a blow to all hopes created by the rhetoric of the new Administration and a big setback to the Treaty. The Nuclear Posture Review provides for using conventionally armed long-range ballistic missile systems by the United States, while this country has been claiming for a long time that the ballistic missile has no use other than as a means of delivery of weapons of mass destruction.

12. The Preparatory Committee and the 2015 Review Conference have the task of addressing the concerns of the non-nuclear-weapon States emanating from the development and deployment of new nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, and of alleviating these concerns by considering a decision on the prohibition of the development, the modernization and the production of any new nuclear weapons, particularly mini-nuclear weapons, as well as a ban on the construction of any new facility for the development, deployment and production of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery at home and in foreign countries.

13. Moreover, real concerns of the international community remain over the horizontal proliferation of nuclear-weapons transfers to other countries and the deployment of nuclear weapons in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States, and the danger of using such inhumane weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty. Ironically, not only do some nuclear-weapon States not take steps towards the total elimination of their arsenals and give no real and unconditional security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States parties, but they also threaten to use their weapons against States parties to the Treaty.

14. In accordance with article I of the Treaty, each nuclear-weapon State party to the Treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly or indirectly. Contrary to this obligation, hundreds of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery have been and are still being deployed in other countries, and air forces of non-nuclear-weapon States train in the delivery of these weapons under the cover of military alliances. The new Nuclear Posture Review of the United States has clearly confessed such violations, namely, the deployment of American nuclear weapons in the territories of the European Union, and the Review Conference must seriously address this case of non-compliance. In the same context, the nuclear-sharing between the nuclear-weapon States and between the nuclear-weapon States and non-parties to the Treaty is also a grave source of concern for States parties to the Treaty. The nuclear-weapon States should comply with their obligations under article I by refraining from nuclear-sharing, under any pretext, including security arrangements or military alliance.

15. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in its article III (2), states that all States are to refrain from the transfer of sensitive technology and materials to non-parties to the Treaty unless they are placed under the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

16. Accordingly, the Review Conference should reaffirm the total and complete prohibition of transfer of any nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear, scientific or technological fields to non-parties to the Treaty, without exception and with particular regard to the Israeli regime, whose unsafeguarded nuclear facilities and continued programme for the development of nuclear weapons are a real threat to all countries of the Middle East and to international peace and security. The United States is a non-compliant Party in its undertakings under the provisions of the Treaty by continuing nuclear-sharing with the Zionist regime of Israel and by strongly supporting this regime by keeping silent in respect of the acknowledgement by the former Prime Minister of Israel of its nuclear arsenal. The policy of inaction of the United States and some other nuclear-weapon States regarding the real threats of the nuclear arsenal of the Zionist regime to regional and international peace and security in the Security Council and other relevant forums constitutes an act of horizontal proliferation, adding to their vertical one.

17. The agreement signed by the Director of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission and the Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of the United States, enabling the Zionist regime to access most of the available nuclear data and technology of the United States, is another example of non-compliance by the United States with the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It seems that the United States is not shy about supporting that regime's

nuclear weapon programme, and the disclosed "top secret document dated 23 August 1974" clearly shows the role of the United States in equipping the Zionist regime with nuclear weapons.

18. Although the moratorium on nuclear testing (but not testing using simulations) has been maintained since the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, some efforts had been under way in the United States to allocate millions of dollars to the goal of reducing to 18 months the time necessary to resume a nuclear test. This puts into question its commitment to the so-called moratorium. The international community has high expectations that the United States, as a major nuclear-weapon State, will implement its commitments under the final document of the 2000 Review Conference and the agreed action plan on nuclear disarmament of the 2010 Review Conference, in which the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has been envisaged as one of the 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament.

19. While new issues such as terrorism, threats to non-proliferation and the possible role of terrorist groups in proliferation should be duly dealt with, it is very unfortunate that these issues are abused as pretexts to justify the pursuit of preserving nuclear weapons and ignorance of nuclear disarmament obligations by certain nuclear-weapon States. Specific threats may not be resolved by resorting to more dangerous weapons that would have catastrophic consequences well beyond any other threats in scope and effects. The main responsibility for nuclear security and preventing nuclear terrorist groups from having access to the nuclear weapons or materials within the territory of a nuclear-weapon State or under its jurisdiction or control rests entirely with that State. Pending the total elimination of such weapons, they should take necessary measures to protect their arsenals from any theft and incident.

20. The Treaty review process should be able to reiterate once again its unconditional global call for the full implementation of the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, and it must assess the implementation of the 13 practical steps agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference and the action plan on nuclear disarmament adopted by consensus at the 2010 Review Conference.

21. The parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, should engage in good faith in the substantive work of the 2015 Review Conference for the prompt and meaningful implementation of obligations under the Treaty, including article VI, and the commitments made at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences.

22. The international community cannot wait forever to witness the total elimination of nuclear weapons. To that end, the 2015 Review Conference should adopt a clear time frame for the full implementation of article VI.

23. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the first ever high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held in New York on 26 September 2013, as a concrete contribution to achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament. In his statement at the beginning of that meeting, His Excellency President Hassan Rouhani of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made a three-point proposals on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement which was supported by many of the participating delegates and subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in

resolution 68/32 on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. In that resolution, the Assembly: (a) called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction; (b) decided to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard; and (c) declared 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons devoted to furthering this objective, including through enhancing public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination, in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

24. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran, while underscoring the importance of applying, in the adoption of the programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament, the principle contained in paragraph 29 of the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament that "The adoption of disarmament measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage", urges the Conference to agree, by consensus and without any further delay, on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work that takes completely into account the security interests of all States. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its call for the establishment, as the highest priority and as soon as possible, of an ad hoc committee with a negotiating mandate on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament. It also calls for the full implementation of resolution 68/32, in particular its call for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

25. Until the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention, the nuclear-weapon States must fulfil their obligations under the Treaty and their unequivocal commitments undertaken at the successive Review Conferences and refrain from:

(a) Any kind of development of and research on nuclear weapons;

(b) Any threat or use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon State party to the Treaty;

(c) Any modernization of nuclear weapons and their facilities;

(d) The deployment of nuclear weapons in the territories of other countries;

(e) Maintaining their nuclear weapons in the trigger-alert situation.

26. Continued lack of transparency regarding the nuclear activities of the nuclear-weapon States is a matter of serious concern to the States parties to the Treaty. The few pieces of news on submarine accidents leaked to the media show the scale of the dangers to international peace and security, as well as the great challenges created by the existing nuclear arsenals to the survival of mankind and the

environment. Since 2000, the collisions and failures of nuclear submarines of the United Kingdom, including HMS Superb in May 2008, have been a great source of concern for the international community and posed an immense risk to the marine environment. During this period, HMS Triumph, HMS Trafalgar and HMS Tireless had similar catastrophic incidents. In particular, in February 2009, the incident between the British nuclear submarine HMS Vanguard and the French nuclear submarine Le Triomphant in the Atlantic Ocean was of serious concern to the international community. Such cases of accidents involving nuclear weapons proved once more the righteousness of the international calls for the immediate realization of a world free from nuclear arsenals through the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty.

27. The question of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons has been an important issue since the inception of the Treaty. The final document of the 2000 Review Conference reaffirmed, in the second paragraph of its section on article VII, the total elimination of nuclear weapons as the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and agreed that legally binding and unconditional security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to all the non-nuclear-weapon States strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and called upon the Preparatory Committee to make recommendations to the Review Conference.

28. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran stresses that efforts for the early commencement of negotiations on effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory, irrevocable and legally binding security assurances by all the nuclear-weapon States to all the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances should be pursued by the international community as a matter of priority. It also propose that the 2015 Review Conference establish an ad hoc committee to work on the illegality of the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances and the urgent need for the full realization of the right and the legitimate interest of all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty to receive effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory, irrevocable and legally binding security assurances from all the five nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances. As a first step to address the twin issues of the illegality of use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and negative security assurances, we continue to believe that the 2015 Review Conference should adopt a decision through which the Conference decides that the threat or use of nuclear weapons shall be prohibited under all circumstances and all the five nuclear-weapon States shall undertake to refrain, under all circumstances, from the use and threat of use of such weapons against any of the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty.

29. The General Assembly, at its sixty-eight session, adopted resolution 68/35, entitled "Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons", in which it called for, inter alia, practical steps to be taken by all the nuclear-weapon States that would lead to nuclear disarmament in a way that promoted international stability and, based upon the principle of undiminished security for all:

(a) Further efforts to be made by the nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally;

(b) Increased transparency by the nuclear-weapon States with regard to nuclear weapons capabilities and the implementation of agreements pursuant to article VI of the Treaty and as a voluntary confidence-building measure to support further progress in nuclear disarmament;

(c) The further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;

(d) Concrete agreed measures to reduce further the operational status of nuclear weapons systems;

(e) A diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies so as to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;

(f) The engagement, as soon as appropriate, of all the nuclear-weapon States in the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons.

30. These required measures by the international community could be considered as a basis for the 2015 Review Conference for further elaboration.

31. In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates that maintaining the established delicate balance between the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is vital to preserving the credibility and integrity of the Treaty. Non-nuclear-weapon States could not accept any new obligations pending the full implementation of outstanding nuclear disarmament undertakings by the nuclear-weapon States.